

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, CU

SUBJECT:NAMIBIA: APPROACH TO CUBANS

1. AS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WITH USINT CHIEF LANE IN THE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 30, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS POINT FOR US TO MAKE ANOTHER BILATERAL APPROACH TO CUBANS ON NAMIBIA ISSUE. CUBAN INTERVENTION WITH ANGOLA AND/OR SWAPO AT THIS POINT COULD BE QUITE HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE OF PRESIDENT NYERERE (DAR ES SALAAM 2822 BEING REPEATED TO HAVANA) TO THE LATEST CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL. DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT IN RESPONSE TO OUR PREVIOUS APPROACHES ON NAMIBIA, THE CUBANS HAVE STATED THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT ANY SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO SWAPO AND ANGOLA, AND SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO AND THE ANGOLANS. TALKING
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POINTS IN PARA 2 BELOW RESPOND TO THIS POINT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH CUBANS:

-- FOLLOWING THE JUNE 10-11 FRONT LINE SUMMIT IN LUANDA, THE MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP WENT BACK TO

SOUTH AFRICA TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SOUTH AFRICA'S AGREEMENT TO STATION ITS RESIDUAL FORCE AT SOME POINT OTHER THAN GROOTFONTEIN AND OSHIVELLO AS PROVIDED IN THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL.

-- SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOW MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT ENTERTAIN CHANGES IN THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL, WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED AND REGARD AS DEFINITIVE EVEN TO THE POINT OF INSISTING THAT THEY MAINTAIN RESIDUAL FORCES IN BOTH OSHIVELLO AND GROOTFONTEIN. THEREFORE, IF THERE IS TO BE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA, SWAPO MUST ACCEPT THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL AS IT NOW STANDS.

-- IF SWAPO REFUSES, SOUTH AFRICA WILL, IN ALL PROBABILITY, IMPOSE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE AS FAIR AND AS IN KEEPING WITH THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. IN THE ABSENCE OF SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PROBABLY ENJOY CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION. THE FIVE WOULD THEN NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PREVENT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

-- AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS REMAINED ON ANGOLA'S SOUTHERN BORDER WITH ALL THAT IMPLIES FOR CONTINUING REGIONAL INSTABILITY
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INCLUDING GUERRILLA WARFARE, FURTHER SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS INTO ANGOLA, AND CONTINUING SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT WITH ANGOLAN POLITICAL GROUPS.

-- IF SWAPO SHOULD ACCEPT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP PRESENCE WOULD QUICKLY BE REDUCED TO 1500 MEN, CAREFULLY MONITORED BY THE UN, AND THE ANGOLAN-NAMIBIAN BORDER WOULD BE SEALED BY A UN FORCE. THE BENEFITS TO ANGOLA FROM SWAPO ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE ENORMOUS.

-- AS YOU KNOW, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY VISITED LUANDA JUNE 21 THROUGH 25 FOR TALKS WITH ANGOLAN OFFICIALS HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER NASCIEMENTO. IN ADDITION TO A VARIETY OF OTHER SUBJECTS, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA WITH THE ANGOLAN OFFICIALS, AND WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY SHARE OUR VIEW THAT A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT UNDER THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN THAT PART OF AFRICA AND WOULD BE TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT A DECISION NOW RESTS WITH SWAPO

AND THE KEY FRONT LINE STATES, PARTICULARLY ANGOLA.
HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT YOU WOULD BE
ABLE TO GIVE TO THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL IN YOUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH ANGOLA AND SWAPO.

3. FYI: AT THIS POINT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE
DESIRABLE TO INFORM CUBANS OF NYERERE'S RESPONSE
(DAR ES SALAAM'S 2822), ALTHOUGH IF ASKED YOU COULD
SAY THAT WE UNDERSTAND KEY AFRICAN STATES GENERALLY
SUPPORT CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL. END FYI.

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